



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/529,717 Confirmation No.: 3228  
Applicant : KIMURA et al.  
Filed: August 22, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1711  
Examiner : Rabon A. Sergent  
  
Docket No. : 7372/70942  
Customer No. : 42798

September 9, 2004

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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**AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.